

CONTINUED

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia
SUBJECT	Economic - Liquid fuels
HOW PUBLISHED	Semiweekly newspaper
WHERE PUBLISHED	Berlin
DATE PUBLISHED	10 Feb 1951
LANGUAGE	German

DATE OF INFORMATION 1951

DATE DIST. 19 Jul 1951

NO. OF PAGES 1

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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Nachrichten fuer Aussenhandel.

REPORTS CZECH PRODUCTION OF PETROLEUM
LIQUID FUELS FROM COAL

The Petroleum Press Service reports that liquification of coal in Czechoslovakia yields 250,000 tons of fuel annually, including 200,000 tons of gasoline. Almost the entire output is produced by the large hydrogenation plant in Most. The installation employs 10,000-11,000 workers and processes approximately 2.2 million tons of coal annually. The original plant, construction of which was begun during the war, was destroyed before its completion. Reconstruction of the plant is currently in progress.

Another Fischer-Tropsch installation is to be added, principally for the production of lubricating oils. Construction of a high-octane aviation gasoline plant is also planned.

Czechoslovakia's petroleum output in 1948 was 50,000 tons. While the Five-Year Plan calls for 100,000 tons annually, this amount is eventually to be increased to 350,000 tons. New petroleum fields have been discovered along the Austrian and Hungarian borders, but geological examinations show that the high expectations were not justified. The smallest yield comes from the area between Central Moravia and Bratislava, while the best core samples are reported from Hodonin in southern Moravia and Gbely and Bratislava in Slovakia. Traces of petroleum were also found in northern Slovakia, but industrial utilization has not yet been considered.

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